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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/533,150	03/23/2000	Kimihiro Yamashita	KIK01 P-319	1126

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EXAMINER

GUPTA, ANISH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1653	

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/533,150	YAMASHITA, KIMIHIRO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Anish Gupta	1653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7, 15. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-3, in Paper No. 14 is acknowledged. Applicants election of the species Hydroxyapatite ceramic materials is also acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, it is unclear what "which is formed" makes reference to. Does this make reference to the controlling of the organism at the N-Surface or P-surface or just the N-surface or P-surface it self. Applicants are requested to clarify or amend the claim accordingly.

In claim 3, Applicants are requested to place the phrase "in the form of a" before "powder, fiber, or a coating film."

In claim 1, it is unclear what is the intended meaning of controlling organism. The claim recites that the method comprises growing, decreasing, activating and inactivating microorganisms. However, it is unclear what methods, beyond the afore mentioned can be used in "controlling organism."

In claim 1, one of the limitations recited is decreasing cells, virus and/or bacteria. However, it is unclear what is decreased. That is, population, the actual physical size, activity can all be decreased. However, from the claim it is unclear what aspect of the cell, virus, or bacteria is decreased.

In claim 1, it is unclear what organisms are to be controlled. The claims recite cells, bacteria, virus and fungi. However, it is unclear if this is a comprehensive list of the organisms intended to be controlled or this list are just examples of the organisms intended to be controlled. Accordingly, the claim is indefinite with respect to organisms.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moriya et al. (Medline abstract).

The claims are drawn to a method of inhibiting, growing, activating, inactivating cells on a ceramic surface, specifically hydroxapatite.

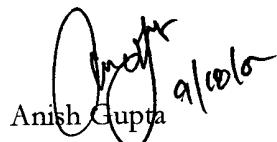
The reference teaches a method of stimulating hydroxyapatite implant to achieve bone formation. The reference stats that around a cathode of the hydroxyapatite implant, bone formation on the surface was recognized remarkably and round the anode, little amount of bone

formation on the surface was recognized (see abstract). The reference anticipate the claim since the reference teaches the stimulation of bone, which would include the stimulation of osteoblast, on a hydroxyapatite surface and would read limitation of growing cells recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the electrical stimulation would polarize the surface.

4. The reference of Kobayashi has been cited because it is pertinent to Applicatns disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anish Gupta whose telephone number is (703) 308-4001. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low, can normally be reached on (703)308-2923. The fax phone number of this group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Anish Gupta
a/color


Christopher S. F. Low

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